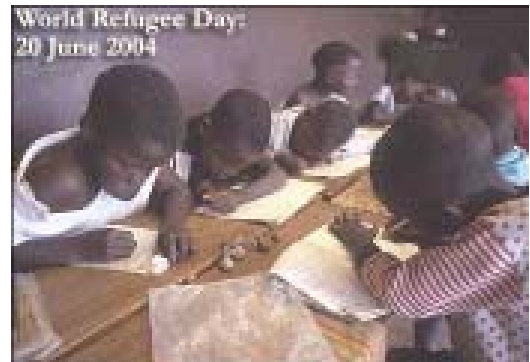




World Refugee Day 2004

Virginia Film Festival



The Virginia Refugee and Immigrant Health Program celebrates World Refugee Day 2004 to recognize the harrowing experiences as well as the resilience of the world refugees. Three films on refugee experiences will be shown in the month of June. These three films address experiences of select refugees around the world and their adjustment in the United States.

Program's Intended Audience

This World Refugee Day film series is ideal for public and private health care professionals and paraprofessionals involved in the care of refugees arriving in the United States. This film series may also be of interest to persons working in the fields of psychology, anthropology and human rights.

Program Delivery

The films will be delivered via the video conferencing system (polycom) of the Virginia Department of Health. The first broadcast will be June 3, 2004. Each film will be followed by a discussion. For a free surprise gift, participants viewing the films can complete a 10-question quiz.

World Refugee Day Film Schedule

June 3, 2004 (12:30 pm to 2:30 pm)

Children of War (25 minutes)

Ping Chong and Company and the Center for Multicultural Human Services present the world premiere of Ping Chong's *Children of War*, a new multi-disciplinary theatre work based on the personal testimonies of a diverse group of young people who have experienced war, civil turmoil, and/or domestic trauma. Youth participants range in age from 12-19 and in origin from El Salvador, Somalia, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, and Kurdistan.

(Film description courtesy of Ping Chong and Company,
<http://www.pingchong.org/works/cow.html>)

June 10, 2004 (12:30 pm to 2:30 pm)

A Great Wonder: Lost Children of Sudan Resettling in America (61 minutes)

A Great Wonder traces the extraordinary journey of three young Sudanese orphans who have spent the majority of their lives either in flight from war or in refugee camps in Ethiopia and Northern Kenya. Having navigated the hazards of warfare, disease and starvation, their arrival and resettlement in Seattle, WA, is not your average immigration story. *A Great Wonder* explores the motivations that drive these young people to rebuild their lives.

(Film description courtesy of Bullfrog Films)

June 17, 2004 (12:30 pm to 2:30 pm)

Chasing Freedom: A Court TV Original Movie (~ 90 minutes)

This movie depicts the horrors of life under the Taliban in Afghanistan and a young woman's grueling attempt to seek political asylum in the United States. Juliette Lewis stars as an ambitious New York lawyer who reluctantly takes on the pro-bono case of "Meena," a young Afghan woman portrayed by Layla Alizada. Meena, wanted by the Taliban for secretly teaching girls to read and write, flees to the United States, but without any paperwork documenting her experience or her identity. The film depicts the reality that asylum-seekers face nearly insurmountable obstacles and prison-like conditions while their cases wind their long way through immigration bureaucracy.

(Film description courtesy of Court TV, <http://www.court.tv/freedom/>)

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